

The Sharing of School Meal Eligibility Information

Get the answers you need!



COLORADO
Department of Education

Dear LCCS families:

To clarify questions related to the sharing of your information when applying for free or reduced-price school meals, **Hinsdale County School District** has prepared the following collection of frequently asked questions and answers.

Q: What impact does undocumented or documented immigration or refugee status have on my child receiving free or reduced-price school meals?

A: None. Public school districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program and/or the School Breakfast Program, like **Hinsdale County School District** are required to process all submitted applications for free or reduced-price school meals, regardless of immigration or refugee status and without discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin. Eligibility is based on criteria outlined in the free and reduced-price school meal application instructions.

Q: What does public charge mean?

A: Public charge is used by immigration to decide whether a person can enter the U.S. or get a green card/visa. Within this decision-making process, the totality of a person's circumstances are reviewed including their participation in assistance programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, public housing, cash assistance, etc.

Q: If I apply for free or reduced-price school meals, is this considered a public charge?

A: No. Applying for free or reduced-price school meals is not considered an assistance program on the grounds of public charge and will not affect green card or visa status. Additionally, **Hinsdale County School District** does not report meal application information to migrant, immigration, or refugee offices.

Q: Does the Hinsdale County School District free and reduced-price school meal application ask for an immigration, migrant, citizenship, or refugee status?

A: No. Immigration, migrant, citizenship, or refugee status is not asked for during the application process, and families should continue to apply for free or reduced-price school meals. The application does require the last four numbers of a Social Security number or an indication that there is no Social

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Security number. Social Security number information is *not* reported to any organization outside of **Hinsdale County School District**.

Q: Does Hinsdale County School District ever share students' free or reduced-price school meal information?

A: Free and reduced-price school meal application information may be shared with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs. Families have the option to decline allowing their information to be shared with local education programs, Medicaid offices and/or State Children's Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP).

Q: What should I do if I feel like my student or I have been the victim of discrimination or harassment when filling out or submitting a free or reduced-price school meal application?

A: File: AC-E-I

Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity

In compliance with Titles VI & VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and Colorado law, Hinsdale County School District RE-I does not unlawfully discriminate against otherwise qualified students, employees or applicants for employment, or members of the public on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, religion, ancestry; or need for special education services. Discrimination against employees and applicants for employment based on age, genetic information and conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth is also prohibited in accordance with state and/or federal law.

Complaint procedures have been established for students, parents, employees and members of the public. The following person(s) have been identified as the compliance officer for the district:

Martha Levine, School Counselor
Hinsdale County School District RE-I
614 N Silver Street
Lake City, CO 81235 970-944-2314
marthal@lakecityschool.org

Outside agencies

Complaints regarding violations of Title VI, (race, national origin), Title IX (sex/gender) Section 504/ADA (handicap or disability), may be filed directly with the

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Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 1244 North Speer Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, CO 80204. Complaints regarding violations of Title VII (employment) and the ADEA (prohibiting age discrimination in employment) may be filed directly with the Federal Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 303 E. 17th Ave., Suite 510, Denver, CO 80202, or the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1050, Denver, CO 80202.

April 26, 2012

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Hinsdale County School District RE-I, Lake City, Colorado